

Before, During, and After Reading

It's important to enjoy the time you spend reading with your child. Here are some things you can do before, during, and after reading that will help your child grow as a reader.

Before Reading:

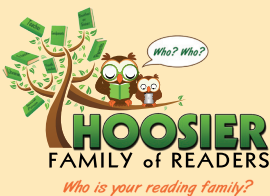
- ✔ Help your child connect the story to his life.
- ✔ Look at the pictures and talk about what might happen.
- ✔ Introduce one or two new words from the story.

During Reading:

- ✔ Point out the new words as you're reading.
- ✔ Have your child read words or phrases that are repeated or predictable.
- ✔ Ask questions to be sure your child understands the story.

After Reading:

- ✔ Talk about what happened in the story and any ways it connects to you or your child.
- ✔ Find ways to use new words from the story in conversations later.
- ✔ Do activities related to the book.



By talking with your child after reading, you can help her develop and use oral language, build vocabulary, and make connections.

Here are examples of different types of questions you can use.

IN THE BOOK

Right There

Example: *Where did the family live?*

The answer is easily found in the text. The exact words for the questions and answers are located in the same sentence.

Think and Search

Example: *What are the most important events in the story?*

The answer is in the text, but gathering information from different places in the selection.

IN MY HEAD

Author and You

Example: *What do you think will happen next?*

The answer is not in the text. The reader combines previous knowledge with text information to create a response.

On My Own

Example: *How are you like the character?*

The answer is not in the text. The reader uses previous experience to respond.

Source: Raphael, T.E., & Au, K.H. (2005). QAR: Enhancing comprehension and test taking across grades and content areas. *The Reading Teacher*, 59, 206-221.

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